





planes bomb south villages

including two children  
in five bombed villages in the  
western SSIMI claimed Friday  
during the raid on Thursday. It  
was the first time the government  
had acknowledged the raid by the  
Sudanese SSIMI's spokesman said  
the Wednesday SSIMI said the  
village, killing five  
of the rebels of violating the  
armistice and fighting again. The rebels  
said the bombing was a violation of  
the reported violation and to observe  
a truce.

council on Kurdish meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — His  
Royal Highness Crown  
Prince Hassan returned to  
Amman Thursday evening  
after chairing a two-day  
plenary session of the Arab  
Thought Forum (ATF) which  
groups some 200 intellectuals,  
thinkers and decision-makers from  
throughout the Arab  
World.

Held after a four-year  
break caused by the Gulf  
crisis, the ATF's meeting  
was significant as it sought to  
restore understanding  
among the Arabs. Prince  
Hassan said in a television  
interview immediately  
upon arrival at Marka Air-  
port.

Reflecting on the atmos-  
phere at the ATF conference,  
Prince Hassan said that the  
delegates tackled several important issues in  
complete frankness,  
rationality and clarity, adding  
that the aim of the  
discussions was to arrive at  
an approach that would enhance  
future inter-Arab dialogues and build mutual  
confidence among the  
Arab states in social, cultural  
and economic fields.

Despite the many frus-  
trations felt in the Arab  
World, the ATF sought to  
emphasise the need for  
inter-Arab cooperation and  
creating new hopes, said

the Crown Prince, noting  
that the Arab delegations  
were unanimous on this im-  
portant point.

The ATF meeting, he  
said, also directed its attention  
to humanitarian aspects, expressing hope  
that the coming decade will  
be characterised by  
construction and sustainable  
development.

Prince Hassan expressed  
hope that the ATF would  
direct its attention in the  
future to issues facing the  
Arab youth, trying to address  
them in a scientific manner.

Asked about his meeting  
with the Kuwaiti delegation  
at the ATF meeting, Prince  
Hassan said: "I believe the  
meeting was characterised  
by frankness, and I can say  
that we have reached a  
certain stage of maturity in  
bundling humanitarian issues. I cannot say that we arrived at full agreement  
over the topics we discussed,  
but we are oriented towards holding a special  
ATF session to discuss the 'Gulf earthquake' and the  
'Gulf crisis,'" said the  
Crown Prince who expressed  
hope that the delegations  
in the coming session  
would focus on moves to  
ensure further pan-Arab  
cooperation and integra-

tion.

"At the ATF we presented  
our views concerning the  
ordeal of the Iraqi people as well as concepts  
for raising the standard of  
living of the Arab masses

everywhere," noted Prince  
Hassan in his statement to  
Jordan Television and the  
Jordan News Agency, Petra.

With reference to  
Jordanian-Qatari relations,

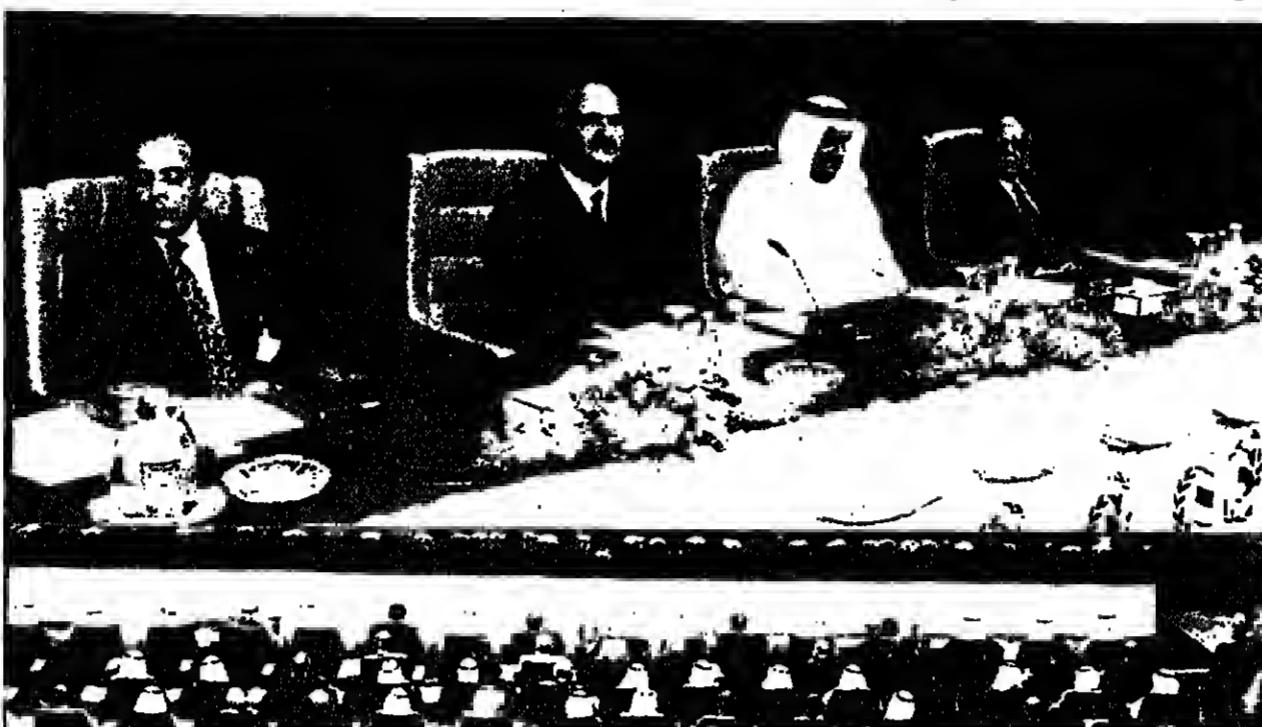
Prince Hassan said he had  
held talks with Qatari leaders  
on development plans, noting that the Qatari officials  
displayed great interest at the public and the  
private levels in participa-

ting in the coming Middle  
East and North African  
summit which is to be held  
in Amman later this year.

Upon his departure from  
Doha, Crown Prince Hassan  
sent a cable to Qatar's



Crown Prince Hassan is met by Qatari Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani. (Below) Participants attend the ATF plenary session (Photos by Boghos)



(Top) His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan chairs the plenary session of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) in Doha last Wednesday. To the Crown Prince's left is Qatari Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa

## PSD chief recovering from surgery

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Chief  
Lieutenant Abdul Rahman  
Udwani was listed in good  
condition after undergoing  
an operation in the United  
States, informed sources  
said Friday.

According to the source,  
Lt.-Gen. Udwani, head of  
the Public Security Department  
(PSD), Wednesday  
underwent surgery to remove  
a cancerous tumour from a lung at the Mayo  
Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

"The operation was very  
successful and the police  
chief is in excellent condition,"  
the source told the Jordan Times Friday.



Abdul Rahman Udwani

## World nature conservation group to hold conference in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in cooperation with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), is organising a three-day international conference in Amman next month to discuss legislation on the environment in the Western Asia region, according to RSCN board member Issa Shahin.

Mr. Shahin said that delegates from 13 states from the Arab World, Pakistan, Afghanistan as well as Jordan will discuss ways for cooperation among their countries to safeguard the environment and how to benefit from ad-

ditional artifacts to Egypt

cooperation between pub-

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### CONCERT

Concert by Calliope band at Philadelphia Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

#### FILM

Film entitled "Pink Floyd The Wall" at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 12:00 noon and 9:00 p.m.

#### JEWELLERY DISPLAY

An exhibition of jewellery inspired by the nature of Dhau (designed by Ammar Khayyam) in cooperation with the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature at Darat Al Funun.

#### POETRY RECITAL

Poetry recital by Izziddin Manssah, Hilmi Salim, Ali Shalab, and Mohammad Sham Al Din at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITION

- ★ Exhibition of plastic art by several Jordanian artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Mahmoud Sadeq at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Photography exhibition entitled "Fuentes de la Memoria" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Exhibition of water colour and oil paintings by Jordanian artist Sa'id Haddadin at Orfali Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Samer Osama at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A collection of photos of Middle East doors by Julia Reinhold at the Gallery, off the main lobby, Inter-Continental Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Moroccan artist Farid Belkhatia at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of copper sculptures by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Jadi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- ★ Exhibition of graphic works by Rafiq Lahham at Darat Al Funun. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.

## Officials, businessmen from Jordan, Israel and U.S. to attend seminar in Amman on Rift Valley projects

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senior officials and businessmen from Jordan, Israel and the United States meet in Amman for three days starting on Monday to give shape to development projects in the Jordan Rift Valley estimated to cost \$4 billion to \$5 billion ahead of the Middle East and North Africa summit to be held in Amman in October.

Sponsored by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA), the symposium will focus on projects in telecommunications, aviation, environment, energy, oil shale development, hydropower generation, transportation, desalination and other water-supply issues, a statement issued by the United States Information Service (USIS) said.

Mr. Shahin said that international institutions such as the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) have been invited to take part in the meeting which will convene on May 1, 1995.

This purely preventative initiative aims to secure a polio-free Jordan, the statement said.

The polio vaccine will be offered at all Ministry of

Health health centres, mother and child centres and hospitals, as well as the Royal Medical Services, University of Jordan Hospital and United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) statement said.

The campaign, organised by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, is in accordance with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF's goal to achieve global polio eradication by the year 2000.

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Polio is considered an infectious disease that affects the nervous system, and could lead to permanent paralysis, physical disfigurements, and in some cases death. The causative agent for this disease is a virus which is transmitted from one child to another, and may infect adults in rare cases.

The vaccine, in the form of two oral drops, will be available free-of-charge to all children residing in Jordan, irrespective of nationality, medical insurance or immunisation status.

Ensuring that the success of

this campaign resides in the cooperation of families, the concerned authorities are requesting families to bring their children forward for immunisation.

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According to the World Children, published by UNICEF recently, 95 per cent of all one-year-old Jordanian children have been immunised against polio during the period 1990-1991, which is one of the highest immunisation coverage rates in the world.

Noteworthy is that the first stage of this national campaign, that took place in March, recorded great success, as 99.3% of children were immunised, scoring one of the highest immunisation coverage rates attained through a national campaign; such campaigns being a vital strategy towards the eradication of polio, according to UNICEF.

Earlier this month Jordan celebrated World Health Day under the theme "A World Without Polio" on the occa-

sion of which Richard Jolly, then the acting executive director of UNICEF, stated in a press conference held in Amman, that despite Jordan's limited economic resources, the country has attained prominent advances in the health field.

Dr. Jolly attributed this headway to high public awareness and level of education, particularly among women.

He further expressed UNICEF's aspirations to make Jordan a model example for other countries in the region, especially that Jordan is expected to be polio-free within the coming few years, the statement concluded.

## Ministry, UNICEF to administer second dose of polio vaccine to children under age five

AMMAN (J.T.) — The second dose of national polio immunisation campaign is due to start today, covering all children under the age of five, a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) statement said.

The campaign, organised by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, is in accordance with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF's goal to achieve global polio eradication by the year 2000.

As for remote areas not accessible to these centres, they will be serviced by mobile ministry immunisation teams, said the statement.

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two oral drops, will be available free-of-charge to all children residing in Jordan, irrespective of nationality, medical insurance or immunisation status.

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## Students tackle environmental protection at U.S. embassy's Earth Week finale

By Cathy King  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Earth Week, celebrated at the U.S. embassy, Thursday ended with displays on the conservation of the environment undertaken during the past year by more than 20 schools.

"The target audience (of Earth Week) has been children, and they tackled the theme of environmental protection ravenously," an embassy official told the Jordan Times.

Among some of the displays, modern educational schools and Al Ahli School focused on recycling, showing pupils' designs made with aluminum cans and even a table made from silicon.

Amman National School concentrated on automobile

emissions.

Earlier in the week Asem Fakher, representative of Ahmad Fakher and Co., delivered a paper on the harmful effects of vehicle emissions and explained the problems more specific to the Kingdom.

"There are no laws governing diesel and diesel-run engines and there is no enforcement of laws governing leaded fuels," Mr. Fakher said.

Although unleaded gasoline has recently entered the market, there are few cars capable of consuming it, he added.

Leaded fuel contains gases harmful to living beings and the environment. These gases include carbon monoxide that inhibits the absorption of oxygen into the blood stream. Carbon dioxide contributes to the green house effect; nitrogen dioxide as an unburnt fuel produces photochemical smog and is damaging to the

eyes and bronchiols. Hydrocarbons, present in both gasoline and diesel emissions, also contribute to photochemical smog and the micro-climate (green house effect).

Sulphur dioxide exacerbates asthma and emphysema, and once dissolved in water, creates acid rain, while particulates, comprised of soot impregnated with diesel, contain carcinogens, Mr. Fakher explained.

Lead, used to induce pre-ignition resistance, which ensures that engines start with the first attempt, negatively affects the nervous system and is also damaging to the brain.

Vehicles, Mr. Fakher said, contribute to 20 per cent of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) produced. CFCs, when hit by ultraviolet light, release chlorine atoms that break down ozone molecules.

The growing holes in the ozone layer lead to skin cancer,

which produce less pollution. While he recognised the initial expense required in a bid to protect the environment, Mr. Fakher concluded by saying: "The money spent on pollution prevention does not compare with a breath of fresh air."

An embassy official, involved in the organisation of Earth Week, stated that the intention of the event was to bring together a wide group of environmentalists, to "demonstrate to themselves and to all the people of Jordan that the problem (of the environment) is all of ours."

He added that the basic call that had been repeated throughout the week, was that "we are at the knife's edge. Decisions and action must begin now."

"With one mighty voice," he asserted, "we can produce one mighty sound."





## Jordan Times

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### Terrorism hurts everybody

THE EXPLOSION that ripped through a nine-storey U.S. federal office building in the heart of Oklahoma City Wednesday morning and took the lives of tens of innocent people including children and injured so many others has shocked the international community and caused pain and sorrow worldwide. Never has the world been so united in condemning a terrorist attack than in the aftermath of this carnage. Countries, big and small, and factions from the right and the left have all joined the international chorus that unanimously denounced the bombing attack against a civilian target.

In view of the similarity of the Oklahoma bombing with the 1993 terrorist explosion at the World Trade Centre, some observers have already hinted that some Muslim extremists could be behind the latest act. Others have insinuated that an American religious sect could have been behind it.

But whoever committed the heinous crime, and whatever their reason, we in Jordan as elsewhere in the Middle East remain resolute in our condemnation of any and all terrorist acts that aim to undermine the course of stability and humanity worldwide. His Majesty King Hussein spoke for all of us when he sent a cable to U.S. President Bill Clinton not only to denounce the massacre but also to offer all assistance in the efforts to apprehend the culprits.

The people of Jordan are equally stunned by the attack but fear the implications and the shock waves. At the same time, though, we have to warn against any attempt to stereotype Arabs and Muslims, as indeed happened in the past, especially that guilt by association is wrong at best. Any precipitous backlash against one country or people or religion or another is alien to a fair sense of justice. We therefore hope that the international community would join in one coordinated and concerted effort to apprehend the culprits and all those associated with them without pointing an accusing finger towards one direction or another unjustifiably and unnecessarily.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i's daily commented on Iraq's rejection of the latest U.N. Security Council resolution allowing Baghdad to sell limited amounts of oil to buy drugs and food by saying that the rejection could be a wrong move because the Iraqi people are dire need of assistance. Sultan Al Hattab said the Iraqi leadership could regret its action later when it realises that the West is not concerned over the sufferings of Arabs; nor is it affected by the Baghdad rejection of the resolution. The Western powers, which are doing a grave injustice to the 18 million Iraqis, are not moved by reports of the death of Iraqi children, he said. In light of Baghdad's rejection of the U.N. resolution, Western media would now present the Iraqi regime as the party which does not seek an end to the sanctions to alleviate the suffering of its people, said the writer. I had wished that Baghdad would accept the U.N. resolution because it could mean the start of a complete lifting of the sanctions and a partial alleviation of the suffering of its people, added the writer. He said that Iraq's foes are the only party that is rejoicing now over Baghdad's decision.

MAHMOUD RIMAWI, a columnist in Al Ra'i, described the convening of the General Assembly of the Arab Thought Forum in Doha as a significant event aimed at ending the rift among the Arabs after many years of disarray. The meeting of representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations after a long break caused by the events in the Gulf means a great deal to the Arab World as it opens new dialogues aimed at reconciling Arab people and Arab governments, said the writer. Urging the scholars meeting in Doha to help bridge the gap among Arab countries, the writer said that their meeting in one of the Gulf states was important, noting that their efforts would be well appreciated by the Arab masses. The writer said that failure of the scholars and thinkers to influence the public in the past was largely due to the lack of support they should have received from Arab governments. The resumption of the meetings, said the writer, rekindles new hopes in the hearts of the Arab people for a brighter future.

### Jordanian Perspective

## Oklahoma bombing is a crime against humanity

REGARDLESS of who was behind it, Wednesday's bombing in Oklahoma that killed dozens of Americans, including many children, is an act that should be condemned in the strongest terms. There can be no justification whatsoever for the crime, and whoever perpetrated it deserves(s) the maximum penalty on earth.

Perhaps the Oklahoma explosion is one of those rare incidents over which the civilised world is united. Those who have the slightest sympathy for whoever was behind the bombing do not belong to the civilised world; they come from the darkest corners of human mind.

The blast comes at a time when vested interest groups in the West have stepped up their campaign against Muslims and Arabs, highlighting the negative interpretation of Islam, particularly taking heart from extremism that we see today in Egypt and Algeria.

No doubt, these groups would exploit the incident to any extent to serve their goal of discrediting Muslims and Arabs, giving little credit to the fact that most of the militant groups in the Middle East have denounced the blast in severe terms and denied having played any role in the incident.

The campaign against Arabs and Muslims has reached such a high point that it is not beyond imagination to see accusing fingers pointed at Muslims and Arabs if someone

important in Washington stumbles in his or her bathroom and suffers a fracture.

It was very telling that in less than 30 minutes after the explosion, a local television station in Oklahoma reported that police were looking for three people with "Middle Eastern" appearance who were "seen leaving the area" shortly before the blast. The report, which was subsequently denied, exposed the mindset of many in the United States that any "terrorist" incident anywhere in the world cannot but be linked to the Middle East, particularly Muslims and Arabs.

Then came the all-point bulletin for "two white men" and the arrest of a man in London who was subsequently flown back to the U.S.

The next few days should produce more details of the investigations, and only then we might be able to get any inkling of who were behind the dastardly crime and what motivated them to undertake it.

That is only one part of the incident. The other is the fallout that the Middle East and the Arab and Islamic world would suffer even if it was proved that it was a strictly American group, like the Branch Davidian whose followers have an axe to grind with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, behind the explosion.

It was only natural for the world media to see similarities between the Oklahoma explosion and the Feb. 26, 1993,

blast at New York's World Trade Centre. Behind those comparisons is the fact that people are also seeking clues to link those implicated in the World Trade Centre attack with the Oklahoma bombing. By extension, the picture that is brewing in the American mind is that of people from the Middle East bent upon wreaking havoc in the United States — "bringing Middle Eastern terrorism to American homes," as many columnists in the U.S. call it.

Reports from the Philippines that Arabs were allegedly involved in the running conflict between the government and dissidents in that country are another brick against the efforts of the Middle East, particularly Jordan and similar-minded countries in the region, to get across their message that they are as committed as anyone else in the fight against terrorism and extremism.

What options do we have in our drive to stamp out the root causes of extremism, whether in the Middle East or elsewhere? Very little, given the gaping socio-economic differences in the region at every level of the society.

But that should not lead us to lowering our vigil and slackening our campaign against all forces of evil, regardless of whatever name they assume and whatever ideologies they propagate because it is from those names and ideologies that incidents like the World Trade Centre and Oklahoma bombings are likely to be born in sick minds.

## International effort needed to fight terrorism

By Elia Nasrallah

THE OKLAHOMA blast, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the Iraqi question and a host of domestic issues featured in the local Arabic press last week.

Condemning the blast in Oklahoma, a writer in Al Dustour said the fact that acts of terrorism have started to occur in such major and advanced nations like the United States and Japan indicates that terrorism knows no boundaries.

Indeed, terrorism has

become an international problem that cannot be fought through regular armed forces and rockets but through international cooperation and the establishment of justice, said Taher Al Adwan. It is regrettable, the writer said, that the world Zionism and certain Western media have been exploiting this terrorist act to accuse the Arabs and Muslims of being behind it. He said that Arab and Muslim nations have a duty to confront such practices at the diplomatic levels.

Echoing the writer's call, Al Dustour daily said in an editorial that Israel has promptly tried to exploit the tragic situation in a manner that would best serve its interests. Accusing the Arabs and Muslims of being the perpetrators of the Oklahoma blast will do nothing to solve the international terrorism ques-

tion, said the paper. International terrorism, which has wreaked havoc in the world, has now reached the United States, it said. The attack was not directed at women and children in the building, but rather at the United States as a major power that has been acting as the police of the world, making a lot of enemies, it added.

Basam Emoush, a writer in Al Ra'i, described the

resistance activities conducted by Hamas and its allies as serving the interests of the Palestinian people and speeding up the liberation of Palestine. The Israeli government is wrong to believe that its security measures against the Palestinians can stop the heroic actions.

Basam Emoush, a writer in Al Ra'i, described the

### THE WEEK IN PRINT

Another Al Dustour columnist said that the United States is now paying the price of adopting double standards in its dealings with world questions and the terrorists are expected to launch further attacks to hurt America. Mohammad Kawasb said that through its policies, the United States has made more enemies than any other nation, and through its provocative attitude in dealing with the developing nations, it has paved the ground for the creation of terrorist groups which are now targeting American interests.

Urging the various Palestinian groups and factions to follow the example of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, a writer in Shuhar said that Israel understands only the language of violence and force. Bassam Haddadin, who is a member of the Lower House of Parliament, said the heroic

Camp David accords and the Oslo agreements as means helping the Israelis to impose and perpetuate their domination over the Palestinian lands. The columnist, who is member of the Islamic Action Front parliamentary bloc, said that the Palestine National Authority (PNA) is finding itself more and more isolated and heading for confrontation with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, saying that the Palestine authority is failing under pressure from the United States and Israel to crack down on Hamas and its allies. The writer said that the Palestine authority will soon be losing its credibility since the masses believe only in the actions of those who help them achieve their national aspirations.

Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that Israeli leaders' statements that reflect their country's obstinate stand

vis-a-vis the occupation of Arab lands can only please the opponents of peace in the region and are bound to reflect negatively on the peace process. The writer said that Israel is refusing to withdraw its forces from the Palestinian lands, is dragging its feet on the question of withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights and is telling the Egyptians that it is determined to hold on to its nuclear arsenal. The writer said that the future is not on the side of Israel whose aggressive policies are provoking the Arabs. He said that the future strategic weapon that would have a crucial impact in the Arab-Israeli conflict is the demographic bomb, which the Arabs possess.

Jordan's call on Israel to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) reflects the Kingdom's belief that nuclear weapons can never make peace, said Al Aswaa newspaper. Only justice and real security acceptable to the Arabs and their future generations, said the paper, can create the right atmosphere of stability, security and peace. Since peace has become the strategic option for the parties in the Middle East, there can be no need for nuclear weapons because peace should not be imposed through threats and force, said the daily.

A writer in Al Ra'i condemned Turkey's invasion of northern Iraq under the

pretext of fighting the Kurds. Instead of resorting to the U.N. Security Council to complain against the alleged Kurdish attacks on Turkish positions, and instead of discussing the issue with the Iraqi government, Ankara sent in its troops in total disregard to Iraq's sovereignty, said Yousef Abdullah Mahmoud. The invasion of Iraq, which suffers from crippling sanctions, is not justified under any norms or laws, although it is supported by the United States which advocated the so-called new world order.

A writer in Al Dustour said that Iraq has complied with all U.N. resolutions, subjected its facilities to international inspection, withdrew its forces from Kuwait, recognised Kuwait's international borders and has been living in peace with its southern neighbour. It is time that the world community lifted the sanctions on the Iraqi people and allowed Iraq to sell its oil freely, said Michael Jumeian.

As Jordanians keep calling for the establishment of institutions and building the state of law, they must insist that the events at the University of Jordan be dealt with firmly and through the law, said Abdullah Al Khatib, a writer in Al Dustour. The time has come, said the writer, for Jordanians to put the concept of law before the tribal considerations and to hold those responsible for their actions.

## Amid sanctions, private sector booms in revolutionary Libya

By Anthony Shadid  
The Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya — Mercedes cars, Italian shoes, American stereos and designer clothes clutter the swank shops along Gergesh Street in one of Tripoli's ritziest neighbourhoods. Business is booming in once-autarcic, revolutionary Libya.

Three years after U.N. sanctions were imposed, Libya's private sector has gained momentum, surprising diplomats and foreigners accustomed to the bare shelves of the 1980s and filling the pockets of an emerging merchant class in Libya's big cities.

"There's an embargo but you can get everything," said Stefan Sterzik, a senior accountant at Winterhalle Libya, a German company. "But, of course, it's for a special price."

The sanctions — a ban on air travel, an arms embargo and the downgrading of diplomatic links — appear to have forced Col. Muammar Qaddafi's regime into a delicate balancing act.

Keen to curry the favour of Libya's wealthy, Col. Qaddafi has given a free reign to imports and exports. The poor, mean-

while, still receive heavily subsidised basic goods, softening the crunch of inflation. At the official rate, \$3 equals one Libyan dinar.

On the black market, \$1 buys 3.35 dinars.

Flour, sugar, tea, cooking oil, tomato paste and rice are sold at bargain subsidised prices. A loaf of bread or a kilogram of sugar, for instance, costs a few cents. Education and health care are free.

Despite pressure from the United States, the sanctions have not been broadened to curb Libya's oil sales because of reluctance by European customers.

Still, sanctions have had some effect, especially on those with fixed incomes. In 1990, an estimated 70 percent of all salaries Libyan workers were on the government payroll. Some haven't been paid in months. Diplomats say, and inflation has drastically cut their purchasing power. The average government worker makes about 250 dinars a month.

But that hasn't stopped the boom in parts of Tripoli. Stores along Gergesh Street sell toys from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Satellite dishes from Egypt, England and Korea, and

shoes from Italy and Spain. Imported foods are stacked on shelves.

In a 300-metre stretch, five stores are being built.

"In 1991, all the stores and shops were simple and limited and work was difficult. But there's growth now," said Breier Mohammad Ibrahim, a 26-year-old Sudanese immigrant working at a store selling kitchenware from Egypt, Italy and Japan.

He, too, complains about prices but says business is good.

"The middle class isn't necessarily bigger, but their thinking definitely is," Mr. Ibrahim said.

A few stores down, at a satellite dish distributor, a Libyan named Ali who refused to give his last name, said there's been marked growth over the past few years. His most expensive dish goes for 8,000 dinars (\$2,400), and he says he has customers.

"There is vibrancy, and there's development," he said. "Step by step, it's increasing." He described the freedom given to businessmen as "compensation for the sanctions."

As Ali said, a taxi driver, put it, "there's a new store going up every day."

the 1993 World Trade Centre blast in New York and by bombings in Europe.

"Neither Islam nor Christianity has anything to do with such acts," he said, adding that children and innocent people must be protected anywhere.

Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has experienced his condolences to

victims of the bombing.

"I deeply sympathise with your grief," Mr. Murayama said in a message to President Clinton. "I hope the government of the United States will overcome this tragedy."

In Jakarta, Indonesia expressed deep concern over the April 19 bombing, describing it as "irresponsible" and "against humanity."

Western diplomats say how he balances the needs of the poor with the growth of the private sector may determine how long he can stave off bigger repercussions from the sanctions.

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"I deeply sympathise with your grief," Mr. Murayama said in a message to President Clinton. "I hope the government of the United States will overcome this tragedy."

Western diplomats say how he balances the needs of the poor with the growth of the private sector may determine how long he can stave off bigger repercussions from the sanctions.

### LETTERS

## Action needed to protect Kingdom from irresponsible tourists

To the Editor:

I READ with great interest Mr. G. Saudi's letter to the editor "The Israeli tourism threat" (Jordan Times, April 11). "One hears a lot about the acts of Israeli tourists in Jordan but feels inclined to dismiss what he/she hears as rumours. But with a responsible person like Mr. Saudi speaking about these acts, I believe this issue should be taken up seriously. We all know that in Israel there is a penalty for picking wild flowers, particularly from the roots. Environmental awareness has become global. As a Jordanian proud of our heritage and concerned about the environment, I find it difficult to keep accepting the continuation of such an "abuse" of our heritage and nature.

As a citizen, I appeal to our non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to take action to protect our heritage and the environment. I think it could prove fruitful if they can coordinate and cooperate and come up with a solution. I have great confidence that they will be able to remedy what is going on.

It is ironic that the same edition of the Jordan Times that carried Mr. G. Saudi's letter also reported that an Israeli team visited a wildlife reserve in Jordan and was briefed on the works of one of Jordan's environmental societies, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

Lamia Nasser,  
Amman.

## Arousing readers' interest

To the Editor:

I TOO, am a reader of Dr. Majdoubi's excellent essays, which appear in the Jordan Times on Thursdays. His topics are timely and cover a wide array of societal and educational concerns. However, it was interesting to note that only the article on animal abuse aroused enough emotion for reader comment.

## News

By Dr. Musa

## humanity

## Iraqi assembly to debate U.N. oil plan Monday

**BAGHDAD** (Agencies) — Iraq's parliament will meet on Monday to discuss a U.N. offer to let Baghdad export oil to pay for humanitarian needs.

Iraq's cabinet has already flatly rejected the proposed deal and it has been strongly criticised by ministers and in the official press.

The National Assembly (parliament) is to hold on Monday an ordinary session... to discuss articles and paragraphs of the latest Security Council Resolution No. 986 and its negative impact on the life of the Iraqi people," the official Al Iraq newspaper reported on Friday.

"The paper gave no further details but said the assembly had asked its 250 members to attend.

Iraq has been barred by the U.N. from exporting its oil since Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in 1990, precipitating the Gulf war which drove the Iraqis out of the emirates.

The U.N. earlier this month renewed and sweetened an offer to Iraq to let it sell limited amounts of oil — up to \$2 billion worth over six months — to buy food and medicines, but Iraq has seen the proposal as an infringement on sovereignty.

Iraq is particularly unhappy with the U.N. monitoring of food distribution inside the country and the earmarking of \$130 million to \$150 million for U.N. relief programme to aid rebel Kurds in northern Iraq.

The mayor of the Iraqi capital said Friday Baghdad's 4.5 million inhabitants are suffering from severe water shortages and insanitary conditions because of the U.N. embargo.

Mohammad Taher Hassoun appealed for help for the city as it celebrated annual Baghdad Day, marking its foundation in 762.

"Supplies of drinking water and sewage treatment are in a terrible state of disrepair since the bombardment of installations during the 1991 Gulf war," Mr. Hassoun told AFP.

"This is likely to increase the number of deaths among the population," the mayor added.

He said he had sent messages to his counterparts in other Arab countries asking them to help "save the historic city of Baghdad" and secure the lifting of the embargo.

## Palestinian 'suspect' released

**(Continued from page 1)**

questioned by federal officials at the Chicago airport right after the blast and was released. He then flew to London, where British officials detained him at the request of the United States and sent him back for more questioning Thursday evening.

One FBI official said Mr. Ahmad could have fit the profile of suspected perpetrators and he simply may have been in the wrong place at the wrong time.

A Jordanian government statement said Mr. Ahmad was born in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Jenin in 1963. He went to the United States nearly 10 years ago to study electrical engineering, stayed on and gained U.S. citizenship, the statement added.

The statement said: "The government of Jordan emphasises its firm stand against terrorism in all shapes and forms," the statement said. Jordan condemns terrorism and reiterates its readiness to cooperate with all parties concerned to fight terrorism, and those who support and/or endorse it."

Mr. Ahmad's luggage in Rome was seized by the FBI.

Italian police turned the luggage over to U.S. investigators, who are expected to send them back to the United States as soon as Italy gives its approval, the sources said.

Italian police said they had inspected Mr. Ahmad's luggage in Rome where they found it contained materials that could be used to make explosives.

A spokesman for Alitalia airlines said Friday the man's luggage had been examined by U.S. security in Chicago before being sent on to Rome.

The airline's press service said the three bags were

Baghdad has the capacity to supply just nine million cubic metres of drinking water per month compared to 45 million before the Gulf war, Mr. Hassoun said.

"The quota for each citizen has therefore fallen from 320 litres to 128 of water a day," he said, adding that the poor state of distribution networks and the lack of the necessary chemicals to treat the water were to blame.

Mr. Hassoun said the authorities had been forced to reduce the concentration of chlorine in water to a fifth of its original level.

"Medical centres have reported a large rise in the number of illnesses" arising from the deterioration in the city's sewage treatment, he said.

A shortage of waste disposal lorries means around 21,000 tonnes of refuse piles up every month in the streets of Baghdad, which covers an area of 900 square kilometres.

"For five years Baghdad has seen no repairs. Spare pieces for our sanitary equipment are missing and the lack of foreign currency prevents us from repairing or replacing it," Mr. Hassoun complained.

Iraq said meanwhile allied warplanes had brought a petrochemical plant grinding to a halt this month by breaking the sound barrier when policing a no-fly zone in the south of the country.

Shock waves damaged the plant's instruments, the ruling Baath Party newspaper said, quoting an official source from the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

"On April 11... planes of the hated forces of the thirty-state aggression (U.S. and allies) broke the sound barrier over the petrochemical complex," the newspaper said.

The paper said the breaking of the sound barrier was repeated on April 12 over the same complex, close to Iraq's southern city of Basra.

"There was no visible damage but the ensuing vibration affected the equipment and instruments and led to their stoppage," the source told the paper.

U.S., Britain and France, main allies during the 1991 Gulf war, have set up two air-exclusion zones in Iraq — one in the north to protect rebel Kurds and the other in the south to guard dissident Shiites.



Rescue teams climb over debris on Thursday at the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City (AFP photo)

## Oklahoma blast toll rises

**(Continued from page 1)**

U.S. children that the bombing in no way reflected normal behaviour.

"My message to the children is that this was an evil thing and the people who did it were terribly, horribly wrong," Mr. Clinton said.

"I don't want our children to believe something terrible about life and the future and growing-ups in general because of this awful thing."

Mr. Clinton said the investigation was "moving ahead" and stated that he and his wife, Hillary, would travel to Oklahoma City to attend a special memorial for the victims of the tragedy.

As the death toll climbed, assistant fire chief Joe Hansen raised the possibility of more hearthbreakers. Mr. Hansen said firefighters have searched through about three quarters of the building, but that the remaining one-quarter included the area of a child-care centre.

The investigation has been surrounded by a whirlwind of rumours, speculation and unconfirmed reports, some of them laying blame on Middle Eastern groups, American right-wing extremists and, in one widely-reported example, drug dealers targeting the office of the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

"We have not ruled out any motive or any avenue of investigation at this point," said Weldon Kennedy, the special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in charge of the probe.

The FBI said Thursday it was seeking two white men for arrest in connection with the bombing.

Other law enforcement sources and several developments suggested, however, that the trail of the killers led not abroad, but to the United States itself.

"This looks less international as we move along and get more information about these two suspects," a law enforcement official said, speaking on condition that he not be named.

The official's remarks came as the Justice Department announced it had freed a Palestinian-American man who was repatriated to Washington from London on Thursday for questioning in connection with the attack (see separate story).

Middle, East groups have already denied any connection to the attack and officials were discouraging pursuit of theorising about Middle East links.

A New York daily reported that federal authorities had identified the two main suspects and linked them to drug trafficking, but a law enforcement official who would not be named

discounted that line of inquiry.

"The drug theory is bogus," he said. "It came from a faulty informant."

CNN television meanwhile reported that investigators had identified the suspects by name and had narrowed their whereabouts to a particular region.

The bombing Wednesday was the deadliest attack of its kind ever in the United States, surpassing an incident in 1927 when a man blew up a school, killing 45 people, including 38 children.

A law enforcement source in New York told the Associated Press that one suspect is Asad R. Siddiq, a cab driver from the New York City Borough of Queens, who arrived in Oklahoma City about an hour before the blast.

The FBI, federal firearms agents and Dallas police took a calendar, address book and bag containing clothes from an apartment building Wednesday night, according to a search warrant provided by a man who identified himself as Mr. Siddiq's brother.

The man said he was questioned by the FBI. He denied that he or his brother had anything to do with the bombing. He would not provide personal information about their occupation or nationality.

ABC News and a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official insisted Friday officials know the names of the two suspects.

In addition, both ABC and New York Newsday newspaper said the two suspects were tied to a drug investigation.

Vincent Cannistraro, a former chief of CIA counterterrorism operations, said on ABC that there could be arrests by the end of the day.

"They already know their identities and I think they have a fair idea of where they are located. So I think a major part of the investigation itself is over," Mr. Cannistraro said, citing unspecified "source information."

He said the FBI's reason for identifying the men initially as "John Does" may have been to avoid tipping them off about how close they may be to arrest. ABC added that the two bore a "remarkable resemblance" to men who had been under investigation by the Drug Enforcement Agency.

Their identities — and their motive — were unknown, Mr. Kennedy said. He speculated they may have wanted "some revenge on the federal government as an entity or one of the agencies housed in that building."

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno announced a \$2 million reward for information leading to arrests in the case.

A New York daily reported that federal authorities had identified the two main suspects and linked them to drug trafficking, but a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Major

auto parts are marked with an ID number to thwart thieves.

A federal law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity said investigators believe the truck was rented in Kansas.

Dave Russell, a Ryder truck rental official, said the FBI contacted his company about a truck rented from Elliott's body shop in Junction City, Kansas, about 430 kilometres from Oklahoma City. Mr. Russell said he could not comment further.

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## Draft self-rule accord ready

**(Continued from page 1)** newspaper and confiscated plates of what would have been Saturday's edition.

Owner Adnan Al Khathif said they showed him a warrant from the Palestinian Authority.

"I hope it's the last time they try ideological terrorism," he said, adding that he would still try to bring out the paper.

The publication of such a newspaper would be proof that democracy reigns in the Gaza Strip," he said.

Al Umma supports Ahmad Yassir's hardline Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and has launched scathing attacks on Mr. Arat.

However, preventive security chief Jibril Rajah, who is based in Jericho, denied his men were involved. "They are free to publish the newspaper when they want," he said.

Israel has not officially granted the Palestinian police any jurisdiction outside the autonomous areas, but Colonel Rajah's men roam across the occupied West Bank regardless.

In Cairo, on Wednesday, Palestinians looked into the Israeli economy for a quarter of a century, signed an agreement with Egypt to stimulate trade and give Palestinian goods access to world markets.

Egyptian Economy and Trade Minister Mohammad Mahmoud Qouria, who holds the economy portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, headed their delegations at the meeting.

According to the agreement, Egypt and the Palestinians agreed to preferential trade status for some goods.

It stipulated practical steps to facilitate trade between Egypt and the Palestinian Authority, such as setting up a free zone for transit and easing border restrictions, certificate of origin procedures and the use of Egyptian ports and airports.

On the sidelines, representatives of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority met for two days on integrating their economies after Middle East peace and lifting restrictions to trade between them.

Also present at the meeting of REDWIG — the Regional Economic Development Working Group of the Middle East — were U.S. and European Union representatives.

"We were discussing the various measures that we could take in the area, first of all to promote and facilitate trade among ourselves and vis-a-vis access to the American market," Israeli representatives Dan Catiravas said at the end of the meeting.

The multilateral talks were also devoted to a plan of action to set up an information super highway, he added.

Under the Egyptian-Palestinian trade pact, both sides agreed to press Israel to lift restrictions it still imposes on the crossing points between Egypt and the Gaza Strip so as to facilitate the flow of trade.

"We are about to close the investigation," Oslo assistant police chief Svenning Sponheim told Reuters. "We have not had any new leads since last autumn."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Amnesty protests decapitations in S. Arabia

LONDON (AFP) — At least 90 people have been decapitated in Saudi Arabia in the past three months, a record seen as an "alarming" increase in Islamic form of punishment, Amnesty International said Friday. The London-based rights group called on its members and supporters to write to Saudi royal family members and Saudi diplomatic missions "expressing grave concern about the alarming increase in the number of executions in Saudi Arabia and calling for a halt to such executions. Executions are carried out after trials in which internationally agreed safeguards for prisoners facing the death sentence are completely ignored." Most of the 90 executions cited between Jan. 20 and April 19 were for murder or drug crimes, it said. But one woman was decapitated for "sexual offences and chewing qat," a narcotic plant leaf.

## 1 dead in Istanbul car bomb blast

ISTANBUL (AFP) — One person was killed Friday when a bomb planted in an abandoned car in Istanbul went off as the vehicle was being towed into a police lot, Anatolia news agency said. The dead person was the driver of the tow-truck, the report said. There were conflicting reports on the car's initial location before police called in to remove the vehicle. Anatolia said it was badly parked in the Sultanahmet neighbourhood, a tourist district where Topkapi palace and the church of Saint Sophia are located. The district has been the target of attacks in recent years by the main Kurdish rebel group, the Kurdish Labour Party. But a centre-left paper, the daily Cumhuriyet, said the booby-trapped car had been parked only five metres outside the main entrance to its offices. Cumhuriyet said this was not in Sultanahmet square — as Anatolian reported — but two to three kilometres away.

## Uganda expels 11 Sudanese diplomats

KAMPALA (AFP) — Uganda announced Friday that it had ordered 11 Sudanese diplomats to leave the country in order to cut Sudan's mission here to the same size as the Ugandan embassy in Khartoum. The move will reduce the number of Sudanese diplomats in Kampala to five, a foreign ministry statement said. Embassy First Secretary Hassan Mohammad, military attaché Lieutenant Colonel Hayder Hadi and two other senior diplomats were given up to two weeks to leave, the statement said. Last week Uganda expelled another Sudanese diplomat, Awad Mohammad Hussein, accusing him of engaging in activities incompatible with his diplomatic status. Sudan retaliated by expelling Geoffrey Kabushenga, an advisor at the Ugandan embassy in Khartoum. The two countries accuse each other of backing rebel groups in each other's territory.

## Syrian foreign minister to visit Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa will visit Japan on Saturday and Sunday for talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, ministry officials said. Mr. Sharaa will stop by here on his way to Indonesia after attending the conference on reviewing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in New York. He will attend a meeting of non-aligned countries in Indonesia.

## Sudan refuses to renew visas of missionaries

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's government has refused to renew the visa of a Roman Catholic priest who worked in the country for more than 40 years, forcing him to leave, church officials announced Friday. Father Ottavio Sina, 80, and a member of the Italian Comboni missionary order, was scheduled to leave Friday, a statement from the order in Rome said. He had worked in Sudan from 1947 to 1969 and again starting in 1976. Two other priests of the Comboni order, Father Calvisi Carmine and Father Cazzinga Francesco, and an unnamed Indian priest of the Salesian order have been told to leave by next Wednesday, said the statement, faxed

## Steady improvement at Amman Financial Market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices and turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) improved last week as the banking and industrial sectors saw hectic activity related to an increase in the capital of the banks and expectations that the international sanctions against Iraq could be lifted before the end of the year, brokers said Friday.

They said that in the banking sector major players in the market were adopting positions ahead of possible mergers of some commercial banks in order to meet a directive by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) that all Jordanian banks raise their capital of JD 20 million before the end of 1996.

In the industrial sector, the move by the U.N. Security Council to allow Iraq to export oil worth \$1 billion every three months was interpreted by the major players as a sign that the sanctions against the Kingdom's one-time largest trading partner could be removed altogether by the end of the year.

Some speculators also believed that Iraq, whose cabinet has turned down the U.N. offer, has not said its last word on the issue since

the Iraqi parliament is now debating the limited oil sale plan, brokers said.

The weekly report of the market said turnover rose by more than nine per cent to JD 21.5 million from the previous week's JD 19.7 million.

The general share price index closed at 148.92 points, up 3.1 points or 2.1 per cent, from the week's opening of 145.8 points.

Industrial stock gained 3.4 per cent during the week, commercial banks 1.7 per cent, service sector shares 0.7 per cent and insurance companies 0.3 per cent, the separate sector indices showed.

The report said 7.5 million shares changed hands under 8,051 deals — an indication high-level individual activity in the market.

Service sector shares, boosted by continued activities in transfer of ownership of the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, accounted for nearly half the weekly volume with JD 9.2 million.

Commercial banks and financial institutions came second in sectoral trading with a volume of JD 8.4 million, followed by industrial stocks with 3.5 million dinars and insurance companies with JD 400,000.

Of the 84 companies whose

shares were traded during the week, 55 closed with gains, 16 with losses and the rest remained unchanged.

Brokers attributed the steady improvement in the performance of the market to signs that institutions were determined to play a key role against depression of prices.

In the banking sector, notable gains were made by the Bank of Jordan whose shares opened at JD 3.55 and closed at JD 3.85, the Housing Bank whose stock gained 580 fils during the week, the Jordan Islamic Bank (150 fils), the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank (290 fils), Beirut Al Mal Savings and Investment for Housing (470 fils), and the Philadelphia Investment Bank (280 fils).

Brokers said several individual investors in the market held shares in some of the smaller banks seen as heading for merger to raise their capital as directed by the Central Bank and they were consolidating their positions ahead of possible decision on mergers. That accounted for the increase in prices as well as turnover in the banking sector, they said.

In the services sector, the Irbid District Electricity Company gained 270 fils on news that the government

(Continued on page 9)

## Foreign investment in developing countries down

WASHINGTON (AP) — Private capital flows to developing countries, which took off in 1993, will be down for a second consecutive year in 1995 and has come to a virtual standstill in Latin America, according to a study released Thursday.

Foreign investment in the less developed countries is expected to total \$81.9 billion this year, less than half last year, according to the Institute for International Finance (IFI), a lobbying group for commercial banks.

The Asia-Pacific region is expected to attract no more than \$60 billion in foreign investment, compared to \$80.4 billion last year. Central and eastern Europe are expected to get \$10.3 billion, compared to \$12.7 billion in private investment last year.

Public financing for those areas will rise spectacularly, up 38 per cent this year compared to a nine per cent increase last year, according to IFI. The reversal reflects aid programme for Mexico and Russia.

To avert a repeat of debacles like the Mexican crisis last winter, the IFI called on the international community to Mobilise and put in place an early warning system.

Such a system would put the emphasis on reducing im-

balances and strengthening developing economies while enabling governments, investors and multilateral organisations to anticipate and respond to new crises.

The IFI detailed its proposals in a letter to world finance ministers participating in the spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank next week in Washington.

An early warning system "must incorporate actions by all major participants and revolve around greater transparency and more disciplined approaches to maintaining sound policies."

It calls on the developing countries to establish monitoring arrangements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), even when they have no loans from the organisation, and assuring greater transparency of their economic data.

The IFI also cautioned the developing countries against relying excessively on short-term capital flows and urged them to encourage savings, strengthen their banking systems and avail themselves of international loans to strengthen their economic structures.

"The IMF needs to make crisis avoidance a clear priority and shape its policies accordingly," the IFI said.

## Bonn, Tokyo pressure U.S. not to allow dollar to sink

FRANKFURT (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl punched through diplomatic language to tell U.S. President Bill Clinton bluntly to put the U.S. economy in order in outspoken remarks four days before a Group of Seven (G-7) meeting on currency instability.

Echoing an attack on U.S. budget policy by Japanese officials this week, and reflecting warnings by leading German industrialists that the rise of the mark could price German products out of world market, Mr. Kohl said that Mr. Clinton should not allow the dollar "to sink."

In exceptionally outspoken terms he said in an interview on German television late Thursday that U.S. fiscal and budgetary policies "are not acceptable" and that the United States had to control its budget deficit.

But his economy minister, Guenter Rexrodt, took a different line Friday saying that the strength of the mark should not be "over-dramatised" and that the benefit in containing the prices of imported goods should not be under-estimated.

Mr. Kohl heads the conservative CDU-CSU parties in coalition with the small, free-market Liberal Party to which Mr. Rexrodt belongs.

Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries are to meet in Washington Tuesday and the severe fall of the dollar, particularly against the mark and yen, is expected to be at the centre of discussion.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel, speaking Friday said that "each state contributes to the stability of its currency through its budgetary policy." "The Europeans must continue their policy of consolidation, Japan must open its markets, deregulate and strengthen domestic demand, the United States and Canada must reduce their deficits."

The dollar has fallen by 11 per cent against the mark so far this year, German industrialists, and particularly the heads of the Daimler-Benz group and its subsidiary, the aero company DASA, have warned that the strength of the mark, particularly against the dollar, would have grave consequences for German manufacturing if it persists.

DASA said Wednesday that it would report a loss this year of at least 100 million marks (\$71.9 million) if the dollar did not settle at more than 1.60 marks.

Late Thursday the president of the Bundesbank, Hans Tietmeyer, referring to the G-7 meeting, said that

there was "no instant solution" to instability on foreign exchange markets.

Countries with weak currencies had a duty to establish "credible and concrete solutions" to deal with their economic problems. This was particularly true of countries of which the currencies were used in a reserve role, Mr. Tietmeyer said in a reference to the dollar.

German authorities maintain that they have done all in their power to restrain the fall of the dollar by reducing the German discount rate by half a point to 4.0 per cent on March 30.

Germany held that the duty now lies with the United States to reduce its budget deficit, which is widely regarded as one of the main causes of the fall of the dollar, and with Japan to facilitate access to the Japanese market in order to reduce the Japanese trade surplus with the United States.

One analyst commented: "There is not much that Germany can do."

The Bundesbank, which is always careful to stress that its management of monetary policy depends on strictly domestic factors, justified its decision to reduce the discount rate by pointing to a sharp slowing of the rate of growth of the M3 money supply.

It also noted that the rise of the mark would help to contain inflation in Germany by bearing down on the price of imported goods and services.

The record reached by the dollar was 1.3450 on March 8.

In London Friday the dollar was being traded at close to 1.39 marks because dealers

and investors were buying dollars to protect themselves against any initiative which might be agreed by the G-7.

Throughout January the dollar had been traded at about 1.55 marks.

In Tokyo, Japan, choked by the soaring yen, wants the G-7 finance ministers at their meeting in Washington on Tuesday to send a strong signal to calm volatile markets, arguing that Tokyo has already done everything it can.

Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura told journalists Friday that he hoped discussions would centre on "what the international community needs to do to attain a strong dollar."

All the G-7 nations — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — agree that existing exchange parties do not reflect economic fundamentalists, a senior finance ministry official told AFP.

"The important thing is to send a message expressing our strong stance on the present situation on the foreign exchange markets," he said. The form of the message still had to be worked out, he said.

Foreign diplomats in Tokyo said Japan wants to avoid any direct confrontation with Washington and wants to transform the problem of the strong yen into one of a weak dollar, with major consequences for all G-7 countries.

After reducing its own discount rate last week, Japan feels it now has the right to expect Washington to do the opposite and increase its rates.

## Egypt holds down spending, lets budget deficit rise

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian government, in its draft budget for the fiscal year 1995/6, has held spending increases down to below the rate of inflation but allowed the deficit to grow slightly faster.

The draft, which parliament started debating Monday, foresees a deficit of \$5.297 billion pounds (\$1.56 billion), 15 per cent more than the 4.605 billion (\$1.35 billion) deficit for the current year. The fiscal year begins on July 1.

Inflation has been running at between 10 and 12 per cent, with government ministers saying the lower figure is closer to the real underlying rate.

The budget forecasts overall expenditure at 71,492 billion pounds (\$21.0 billion) 1995/6, 9.9 per cent up on 65,048 billion (\$19.1 billion) in the latest version of this year.

Revenues come to 66,196 billion pounds (\$19.5 billion), 9.5 per cent up on 60,443 billion (\$17.8 billion).

The United States has agreed to provide up to \$200 million in aid to Egypt to modernise its electricity network, the U.S. Agency for International Development

billion pounds (\$4.62 billion). Food subsidies, however, one of the keys to preventing unrest among the urban poor, will remain unchanged at 2.02 billion pounds (\$600 million) — a decline in real terms.

The government finances the deficit largely from short-term treasury bills and Finance Minister Mohammad El-Razaz told parliament earlier this month that the government "bad" not relied on printing banknotes since 1991.

It has just invited subscriptions to a first tranche of five-year bonds worth three billion pounds (\$885 million), at a fixed interest rate of 12 per cent.

As a proportion of the total budget, the deficit next year will be slightly higher than it was this year, at 7.4 per cent against 7.0 per cent.

U.S. grants \$200m to renovate Egypt's electrics

The United States has agreed to provide up to \$200 million in aid to Egypt to modernise its electricity network, the U.S. Agency for International Development

## Ministers from CFA zone hail post-devaluation growth

PARIS (R) — Finance ministers from the 14 African nations of the franc zone said in Paris Thursday they were optimistic about prospects for economic growth in the wake of last year's drastic devaluation of the CFA franc.

In a joint statement with French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery, who hosted the meeting with Paris's former African colonies, they said: "Just over a year after the 'devaluation of the CFA' and Comoros francs, the ministers drew an encouraging picture of the economic and financial situation."

Malian Finance Minister Soumaila Cisse told a news conference the gains were not just in terms of state finances and economic indicators but also on the ground, particularly in the countryside, whose produce could now compete with imports.

"There have been difficulties in the towns... but there has been a very positive effect on rural populations," he said.

The CFA franc's value against the French franc was cut by half in January 1994 under pressure from the International Monetary Fund.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel, speaking Friday said that "each state contributes to the stability of its currency through its budgetary policy."

"The Europeans must continue their policy of consolidation, Japan must open its markets, deregulate and strengthen domestic demand, the United States and Canada must reduce their deficits."

(IMF) to break a 46-year-old fixed parity. The Comoros Islands' franc was devalued by a third.

After a period of stagnation and decline, with the economies of the zone shrinking on average by 0.8 per cent from 1990 to 1993, including as much as six per cent for Cameroon, overall growth returned last year, ministers said.

On average, zone economies grew 1.5 per cent in 1994, Mr. Alphandery said, rising to three or four per cent this year and four or five per cent in 1996 — the sort of level seen in the highly dynamic economies of Asia. Ivory Coast's economy could grow by six per cent next year, he added.

France, which precipitated the currency shift by making its aid contingent on countries winning the backing of the devaluation-bent IMF, says it is pleased with the results.

"The devaluation now seems to be a success, an incontrovertible success," Mr. Alphandery told a news conference. "All the economic indicators show that."

Late Thursday the president of the Bundesbank, Hans Tietmeyer, referring to the G-7 meeting, said that

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY APRIL 22, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to talk with family ties and find out how the relationship can be improved so that everyone can be happy.

**Taurus:** (April 20 to May 18) Today is good for making as many visits as you can and get the right results. Friends can provide very interesting moments.

**Gemini:** (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to become more affluent today and pay your financial obligations more promptly so that your credit is improved.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day to make plans for later tonight, but avoid any tense situations outdoors. Later be with good friends.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Take time to go over your plans today and make sure they are correct so that you can gain your aims wisely.

**Virgo:** (August 22 to September 22) If you apply your best effort today, you can gain personal and intimate longings very quickly. Spend wisely not extravagantly.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Contact the most powerful bigwigs you know and state your capabilities and gain the support you need and want. You're.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Go ahead and plan that trip which could easily help you to expand in business today, but count the cost well.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get into the privacy of your study and think over how best to improve your business dealing for later tonight.

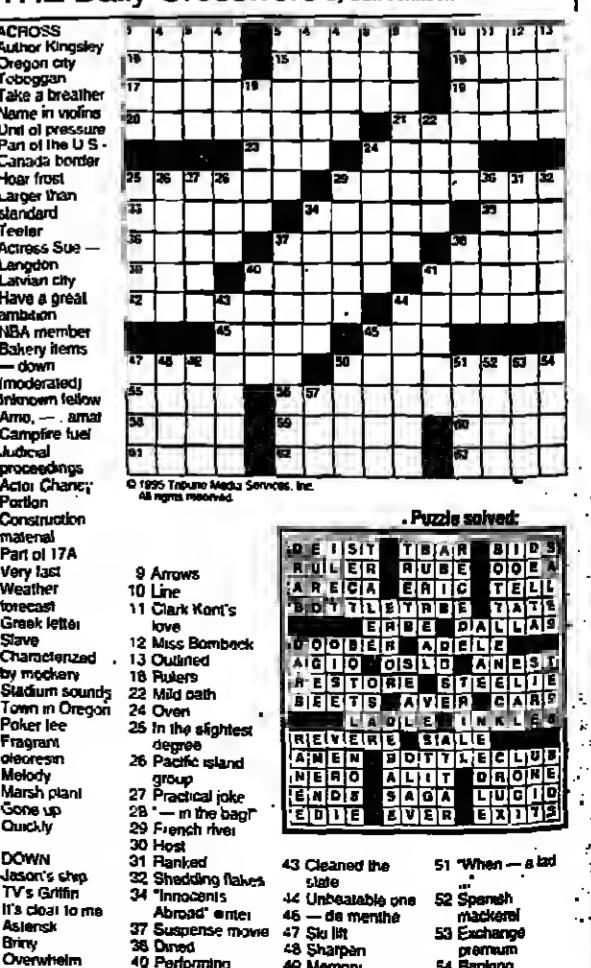
**Capricorn:** (December 22 to January 20) Realise that your fellow associates are not business like and unemotional as you and you can then cement better relations.

**Aquarius:** (January 21 to February 19) You have many duties ahead of you today, but if you schedule them well, you need not feel so confused.

**Pisces:** (February 20 to March 20) Early this morning get in touch with good friends and set up appointments for entertainments and recreational activities for later tonight.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

## THE Daily Crossword





## European Cup Winners Cup

## Arsenal win on penalties to meet Real Zaragoza in final

LONDON (AP) — David Seaman made three saves in a penalty shootout as defending champion Arsenal made it to the European Cup Winners Cup final again Thursday despite a 3-2 loss to Sampdoria.

The Gunners will meet Real Zaragoza in the final in Paris May 10, the Spanish team advancing 4-3 on aggregate despite losing 3-1 to Chelsea in the other semifinal in London.

With Sampdoria and Arsenal level on aggregate at 5-5 after extra time, the place in the final depended on penalties.

Although Ricardo Maspéro and Merino Mannini beat the England goalkeeper from the spot, he was saved from Sinisa Mihailovic, Vladimir Jugovic and Attilio Lombardo.

Lombardo's kick, the final one of the shootout, appeared to have beaten Se-

man but he stuck out his arm and palmed it away.

Sampdoria keeper Walter Zenga saved from Paul Merson and Eddie Goldrnick shot too high. But Arsenal's Lee Dixon, John Hartson and captain Tony Adams scored from the spot.

Coincidentally the shootout scoreline was 3-2, the same as each leg of the semifinal.

Roberio Mancini gave Sampdoria a 13th minute lead only for Ian Wright to level in the 60th with his ninth goal in eight Cup winners games this season to restore Arsenal's overall lead.

The Italian club sent on Claudio Bellucci as substitute and he responded with two goals in the 83rd and 85th minute to give Sampdoria the edge.

But Swedish World Cup player fired a 30-yard free kick home two minutes from

the end of regulation time for 3-2 to push the game into extra time.

In London, Paul Furlong scored a bizarre goal to give Chelsea the lead after 30 minutes. An attempted clearance by Real Zaragoza goalkeeper Juan Miguel Garcia struck Furlong and the ball flew past the startled Garcia into the net.

Zaragoza tied the game in the 54th minute with a sparkling run past several Chelsea defenders. But Frank Sinclair made it 2-1 for the Londoners in the 62nd and the third, from Mark Stein, was two minutes from the end.

Player-manager Glenn Hoddle, Stein and Gavin Peacock all had shots blocked before Hoddle's second attempt was deflected over the bar as Chelsea went close several more times.

Juventus, which leads the Italian League standings by 11 points, and Parma both eliminated German clubs in the UEFA Cup semifinals.

Juventus scored a 2-1 victory at Borussia Dortmund to advance 4-3 overall, and Parma downed Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 to score a 5-1 aggregate victory.

Milan and three-time titlist Ajax of Amsterdam in Vienna May 24 and two more Italian clubs, Juventus and Parma, will contest the two-leg UEFA Cup final May 3 and 17.

Milan gained the Champions Cup final by downing Paris Saint German 2-0 Wednesday to complete a 3-0 aggregate triumph over the two legs while Ajax romped to a 5-2 victory over Bayern Munich after a goal-less first leg.

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## Chang advances to quarters

HONG KONG (Agencies) — Top seed and defending champion Michael Chang beat German qualifier Alex Radulescu 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 Thursday and advanced to the quarterfinals of the Hong Kong Salem Open.

It was the first time Chang had dropped a set in Hong Kong since 1993.

He was joined in the quarterfinals by third seed and fellow American Jim Courier, last week's Japan Open winner, who defeated American Jonathan Stark 7-5, 6-1.

Chang said he knew little about the Romanian-born Radulescu before the match, and that may have affected him in the first set, when he lost serve in the 11th game.

"But really, it should not take me a whole set to figure out the style of my opponent," said Chang, who is ranked eighth in the world.

In the quarterfinals, Chang meets Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen, who upset seven-seeded Dutchman Jan Siemerink 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7-4).

Eighth seed Martin Damm of the Czech Republic also lost, bowing 6-7 (1-7), 6-3, 6-3 to Sweden's Jan Apell.

Courier also struggled in the first set but came through by doggedly holding serve and winning the big points against Stark.

"I have played doubles with Jon before and have also practiced with him. I can certainly play better than I did in the first set, but I improved as the match went on," Courier said.

Also reaching the quarterfinals was the sixth seed, Russian Alexander Volkov, who beat American wild card Entry Tommy Ho 5-7, 7-6, 6-4.

**Medvedev in quarterfinals again**

Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine gained his fifth quarterfinals of 1995 by beating Javier Sanchez of Spain, 6-0, 6-3, Thursday at the Nice Open.



Cedric Pioline

Now he hopes to get into a semifinal after losing at the quarterfinal stage in all his previous tournaments this season.

After blanking Sanchez in the first set, Medvedev dropped behind 3-2 in the second before winning four consecutive games.

Ranked 16th in the world after rising as high as fourth

vedev-Fromberg, top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia against Cedric Pioline of France; Rosset versus Woodforde, and Alberto Costa against Tomas Carbonell in a battle of Spaniards.

**Shelton, Frana win**

In Paget, Bermuda, Vince Spadea, the only seed left in

tine and Spadea have yet to lose a set this week. This will be Frana's first semifinal of the year.

"I've been playing better and better every day, and today I played great," Frana said. "It was a very high level in the first set, and after the first set I think it was tough for him to win the next two sets."

Shelton of the United States downed Michael Tebuthu of Australia 7-6 (7-1), 1-6, 6-3. In the semis, he meets Hadad, a Colombian who beat Jamie Morgan of Australia 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

**McQuillan, Habsudova clash in Fed Cup**

Australia's Rachel McQuillan has drawn Slovak Republic's Karina Habsudova, and the home country's Nicole Bradtke meets Radka Zruhakova on the opening day of their Fed Cup tie here Saturday.

The reverse singles and doubles of this group one match will be played Sunday.

Because of their home advantage, Australia are favourites to win the tie.

But Habsudova, Slovakia's number one player, has pre-

dicted a tough fight.

She conceded Friday she and Zruhakova were not as accustomed as the Australians to playing on grass, but said she believed the pair would adapt well to the different surface.

"After all, we play at Wimbledon every year, so it is not as we will have to cope with something completely new," she said.

Habsudova, 21, has career wins over 1994 Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez and this year's Australian Open winner, Mary Pierce.

Zruhakova, 24, has beaten many top players, including Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Jana Novotna, Mary Joe Fernandez, Judith Wiesner, Magdalena Maleeva, and Helena Sukova.

Previously known as the Federation Cup, the women's tournament has undergone a name abbreviation and the system has changed. The format is now similar to that of the Davis Cup — the men's equivalent competition.

While the Federation Cup was played at one venue over a week the revamped competition is being played over a year in different locations.

## TENNIS ROUNDUP

in 1994, Medvedev is looking to rebound after injuries slowed him late last year.

"I've rested long enough with my injuries," Medvedev said. "I feel refreshed. I didn't play for a long time and now my confidence is coming back."

Australian Richard Fromberg beat Spain's Alex Corretja, 6-4, 6-3 in his second-round match, and fifth-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland eliminated another Spaniard, Roberto Carretero, 6-4, 6-3.

In the final match of the day Mark Woodforde of Australia ousted France's Henri Leconte, 6-2, 7-5.

The quarterfinals are Med-

vedev-Fromberg, top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia against Cedric Pioline of France; Rosset versus Woodforde, and Alberto Costa against Tomas Carbonell in a battle of Spaniards.

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## Oklahoma bombing grim reminder for Atlanta that it can happen there

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Olympic security training exercise was make-believe, but the officers involved had only to look to Oklahoma City to see what the real thing might look like.

About 100 officers worked on a simulated car bombing and hostage incident at the 1996 Olympic equestrian center on Wednesday, the same day that a car bomb killed at least 36 people and injured hundreds more in the Oklahoma state capital.

"What we kept emphasizing to the people who are doing this now is: Play it for real. Because one day it may be," said David W. Johnson, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Atlanta office.

Personnel from the FBI's Special Weapons and Tactics department took part,

cause none exists. Don't get these two mixed up," said Lyn May, a spokeswoman for the centennial Olympic Games' organizers.

But do not doubt security officials here will want to know everything they can about what happened in Oklahoma City.

"We will, of course, request all available information relating to this explosion, study it and consider ways to improve our security if necessary," the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games said in a prepared statement.

Ordinary Americans were tight-lipped regarding the Oklahoma bombing, though they were monitoring developments in one of the deadliest terrorist attack in US history.

"Don't draw a relationship between the bombing in Oklahoma City to Olympic Games, be-

cause none exists. Don't get these two mixed up," said Lyn May, a spokeswoman for the centennial Olympic Games' organizers.

But do not doubt security officials here will want to know everything they can about what happened in Oklahoma City.

"We will, of course, request all available information relating to this explosion, study it and consider ways to improve our security if necessary," the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games said in a prepared statement.

Security officials will be able to use the system to track the movements of any person wearing an Olympic credential.

As well as the now-standard metal detectors, Atlanta security officials will use palm scanners to screen people entering some Olympic venues.

But people who live and work near the still-under-construction Olympic Stadium look to the horror of Oklahoma City and fear they will be the next terrorist targets in 1996.

"There's evil all over the world. You're not safe anywhere anymore," said Barbara Crawford, who moved to Atlanta four days ago from Oklahoma City.

In Atlanta, access to training centers, athlete dormitories and competition venues will be controlled with a radio frequency identification system that will read information encoded on accreditation badges.

The blast in Oklahoma City brightens the tension for everyone, but especially in a place where the attention of the world will be drawn.

## Spurs clinch best record in NBA

DALLAS (R) — David Robinson's San Antonio Spurs clinched the best record in the NBA on Thursday, but it wasn't easy.

Sean Elliott hit a pair of free throws with a half-second left after a controversial foul call and Robinson had 36 points and 13 rebounds as the Spurs secured a home-court advantage throughout the postseason with a 112-111 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

"I am proud of the Spurs,"

said San Antonio coach Bob Hill. "This guarantees us the best record in the league. Now the real season begins."

Elliott went up for a shot and it appeared that Jamal Mashburn stripped him clean. The clock expired, the buzzer went off and the Mavericks began to celebrate before the foul was called.

Elliott made both foul shots and the Mavericks could not get another shot off.

"You can't miss those when that much is on the line," said Elliott. "It was one of our goals to have the best record in the NBA and win the Midwest Division. We have a bigger goal, though — to continue to build on what we have done all year."

"This year I have learned to expect anything," said Dallas coach Dick Motta. "We hung in there; and got the lead. We missed two nice layups that could have clinched it when we were up six, but still it comes down to a referee's call."

Robinson was 17-of-24 in

points and 10 rebounds in 44 minutes.

"You can't stop David, you just have to contain him," said Kidd.

Jason Kidd notched his fourth triple-double with 13 assists, a season-high 12 rebounds and 10 points for Dallas. Jamal Mashburn added 22 points.

Avery Johnson had 22 points and 11 assists for the Spurs, who are 19-2 in their last 21 games.

Spurs forward Dennis Rodman played only nine minutes and had four rebounds

while repeatedly refusing to go into the game during the first half. Rodman had his sneakers off during parts of the game while on the bench.

In Seattle, Gary Payton scored 25 points and the Sonics used a 19-3 run spanning the third and fourth quarters to defeat the Houston Rockets 114-97 and move into a tie with the idle Phoenix Suns atop the Pacific Division.

Seattle turned a five-point deficit into a 13-point lead with the run.

Detlef Schrempf added 21 points and Sam Perkins 18 for Seattle, which has won 13 of its last 16 games.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 26 points for struggling Houston, which has lost back-to-back games and remains a game behind the Lakers for the fifth playoff slot in the

West.

Michael Jordan finished

with 17 points, eight rebounds and seven assists but shot 8-of-18 from the floor.

Jordan has yet to shoot better than 50 per cent from the floor in any game at the United Centre. However, Chicago improved to 12-3 since his return.

Terry Mills led Detroit with 26 points and Grant Hill added 20 and 15 rebounds.

At Golden State, Mitch Richmond scored 30 points as the Sacramento Kings cruised to a 112-98 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Sacramento moved within

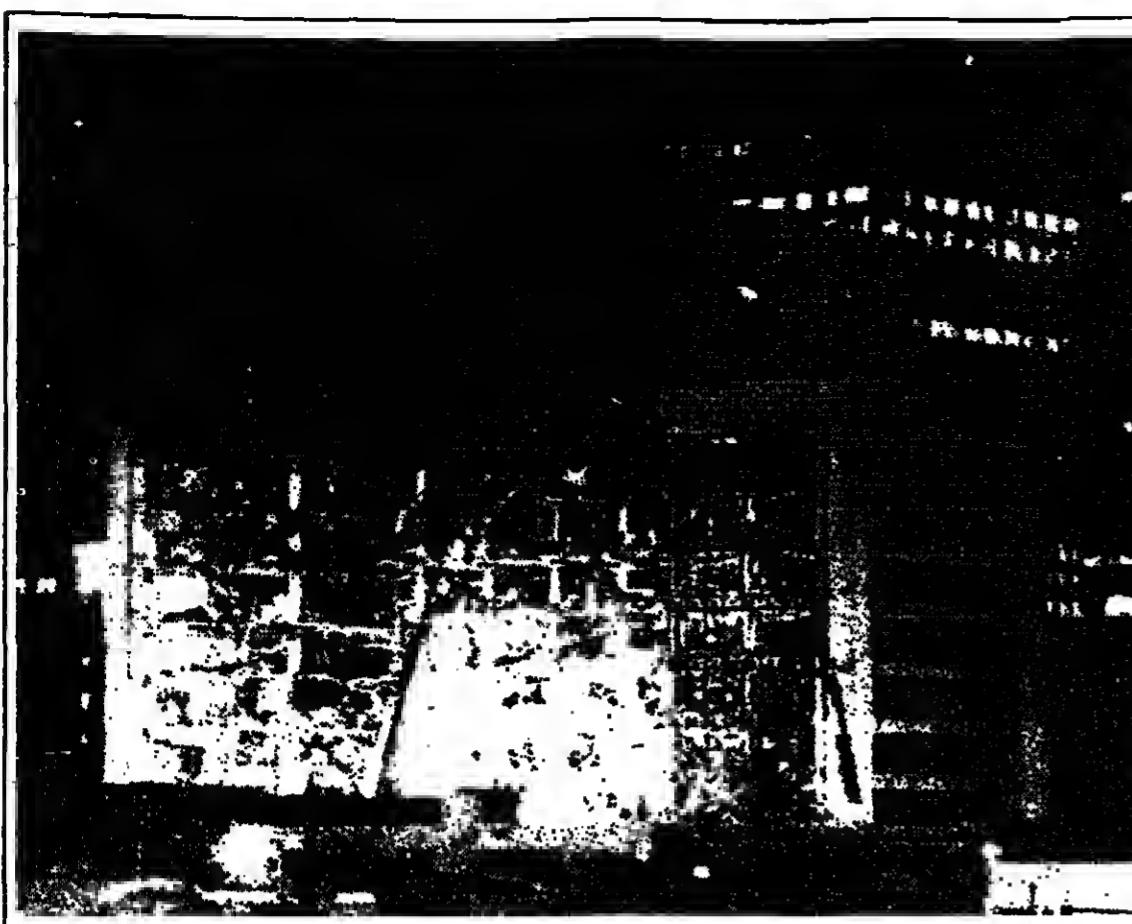
a game of idle Denver for the Western Conference's final playoff spot.

David Wood led Golden State with 18 points and Clifford Rozier added 15 points and 19 rebounds.

## RESULTS

| New York | 91  | Charlotte | 86  |
|----------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Chicago  | 120 | Detroit   | 105 |
|          |     |           |     |





OKLAHOMA BLAST: Floodlights illuminate the federal building in Oklahoma City as (right) rescue workers continue searching for bodies in the aftermath of Wednesday's carbomb explosion (see page one (AFP photo)

## Jordan, PNA to sign all agreements in two weeks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) intend to conclude the signing of all agreements on cooperation in various sectors in two weeks, the senior Palestinian diplomat in Jordan said Friday.

Omar Al Khatib, chargé d'affaires at the Palestinian embassy in Amman, also said the signing of a Jordan-PNA accord of cooperation in culture and information has been delayed until Wednesday because of technical reasons.

Mr. Khatib told the Jordan Times the agreement on culture and information was supposed to have been signed on Saturday (today) but was deferred because of technicalities related to travel across the King Hussein Bridge. The draft agreement, Mr. Khatib said, involves exchange of visits by cultural teams from the two sides, Jordanian training for Palestinians and exchange of information and expertise.

"We hope to sign the agreement on Wednesday," Mr. Khatib said, adding that Jordanian Minister of Culture Samir Habashne and PNA Minister of Culture and Information Yasser Abed Rabbo would sign the accord. According to Mr. Khatib,

Jordan and the PNA have put finishing touches to draft agreements on economic cooperation, trade, and transport, and these agreements would also be signed in the "next two weeks."

"We expect that there will not be any outstanding agreements to be signed at the end of the next two weeks," he said.

These agreements are to be signed in the broad protocol on cooperation that was signed by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who also heads the PNA, in January.

So far, the two sides have signed agreements in post and communications, education, health, and youth and sports. Outstanding agreements cover economic cooperation, trade, transport, banking and monetary affairs, as well as civil affairs.

Mr. Khatib said Abdul Aziz Al Haj Ahmad, the PNA minister of transport, was also due here this week to finalize the agreement on transport. He will be followed by other concerned PNA ministers to finalize and sign other agreements.

A seven-member PNA team headed by Mr. Abed Rahmo visited here on Wednesday and put final touches of most of the agreements, but both sides said

after the talks that finalizing and signing agreements were one thing but implementing them was another.

The reference was mainly to what is reported to be Israeli-imposed restraints on Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation.

"On the one hand are the agreements signed and to be signed between Jordan and the PNA, while on the other are those signed by Israel and the PNA," noted an official.

"The problem, as we see it, is mainly because provisions in the Israeli-Palestinian and Jordanian-Palestinian agreements are overlapping," said the official, who preferred anonymity. "Given that Israel continues to retain control over the Palestinian territories, Israel can also indirectly restrict Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation at this point in time."

A draft Jordan-PNA trade accord is seen as a classic example of the difficulties facing the two sides in implementing bilateral agreements.

While the draft accord sets out a broad scope of exchange of goods between Jordan and the Palestinian territories, an Israel-PNA accord on economic cooperation signed in April 1994 restricts the items that Jordan could export to the Palestinian territories.

In the past, most Palestinian pilgrims from the West Bank and Gaza travelled on passports or travel permits issued by Jordan or Egypt.

## Gaza pilgrims travel on Palestinian passports

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday he was happy Gaza pilgrims were travelling to Mecca for the first time on Palestinian passports.

But he criticised Israel's seizures of travel documents for other Palestinians.

Around 500 Palestinians from the self-ruled Gaza Strip left Gaza for Egypt on Friday on their way to Mecca in Saudi Arabia for the Haj pilgrimage.

"I am very happy that... I had the opportunity to say farewell to our pilgrims who are going to Saudi Arabia for the Haj and I am very happy that they are carrying Palestinian passports for the first time," Mr. Arafat told reporters.

Palestinian Religious Affairs Minister Hassan Tahabbu said that unless the green passports are returned by Saturday it will be too late to obtain visas.

Previously, Palestinians needed Israeli laissez-passer permits to travel abroad.

The Israeli authorities agreed not to stamp the Palestinian passports at the Rafah border. If they did most Arab countries would not allow the bearer to enter.

Palestinian Local Government Minister Saeed Erakat said last week he was the first to use the self-rule regime's red diplomatic passport when he flew out of Israel's Ben Gurion airport for Cairo.

Mr. Arafat reportedly also carries the red document.

Israel and the PLO signed their interim peace deal in September 1993 and have since been negotiating implementation of Palestinian self-rule in the rest of the West Bank.

PLO officials have also complained that Saudi officials had cut the Haj pilgrimage quota for Palestinians from Israel, the West Bank and Gaza to 10,000 this year from 15,000.

A total of 3,500 Gazans are due to join the Haj, said Yousef Salami, a senior official at the Palestinian religious affairs ministry.

## Denktash faces challenge to his 30-year leadership

NICOSIA (AFP) — Veteran Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash faces a challenge from his former ally Dervish Eroglu in run-off elections on Saturday in the breakaway northern republic of divided Cyprus.

Mr. Denktash fell short of a clear majority in a seven-way contest in a first round of presidential elections last Saturday, winning 40.0 per cent of the vote against 24.2 per cent for Mr. Eroglu, a fellow right-winger.

He now faces the first serious challenge to his leadership of the community since violence broke out between Turks and the majority Greek-Cypriots in 1963, three years after the island gained independence from Britain.

The two main left-wing leaders who contested the first round, Ozker Ozgur who scored 19 per cent and Mustafa Akinci 14 per cent, have refused to back either Mr. Denktash or Mr. Eroglu and left their supporters free to vote as they want.

A fringe candidate, Alpay Dulduvan, has called for a boycott.

If the left-wing vote stays away, cutting the turnout from the 113,000 electorate to below the 85 per cent of the first round, Mr. Denktash would benefit because of his 15,000-vote lead over Mr. Eroglu, political analysts said.

Mr. Denktash, a 71-year-old British-educated lawyer running for his third five-year term in office, said the result showed the Turkish-Cypriots wanted to keep their long-time leader.

"The Turkish-Cypriot people do not want to replace their advocate with another. The people want this advocate to pursue his mission," he said. "Myself, I am ready for this mission and know the difficulties very well."

## Algerian politician wounded

ALGIERS (AFP) — A member of Algeria's transitional legislative assembly was seriously injured Friday in an attack in Algiers by unidentified gunmen, security forces said.

"The people are saying 'no' to an administration built around a single man," said the 57-year-old trained urologist. "The winds of change are blowing and taboos are being broken."

Across the U.N.-patrolled green line which has divided Cyprus since a 1974 invasion by Turkish mainland troops after a coup in Nicosia, the military-backed government cancelled elections three years ago which Islamic fundamentalists were poised to win.

Security forces said it was a "terrorist attack," the term normally used to designate the work of armed Islamic groups, although they did not give further details.

Three NTC members have been killed since it was set up last year. Extremist groups had said they were "usurpers" and were thus prime targets for attack.

The 175-strong NTC is boycotted by most opposition parties.

The shooting came as the Arab-language daily Al Hayat reported Friday that an army general and two colonels had been killed by armed groups in separate attacks.

The paper, quoting sources close to the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), said the officers were killed Wednesday.

If confirmed, it would be the first time an army general has been killed by extremists in what the paper said appeared to be a coordinated spate of attacks on military officers.

## Mistrial request denied in New York court trial

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Defendants in a New York trial have been tainted by publicity about the Oklahoma City bombing, their lawyers said Thursday in unsuccessfully arguing for a mistrial.

One defence lawyer, John Jacobs, said his own five-year-old son, touched by news of children killed in Wednesday's blast, asked whether his client was responsible.

Mr. Jacobs said he told his child that Mohammad Saleh was innocent. But he was concerned about the effect that photographs of dead Oklahoma children could have on the New York jury.

"I'm concerned about it, too, but if there is any time to measure it, it isn't now," said U.S. District Judge Michael Mukasey.

Mr. Mukasey said he might question jurors before they begin deliberations to make sure they did not see or hear anything that would prevent them from judging fairly. On Wednesday, he told jurors to avoid watching or reading reports of the Oklahoma blast.

Mistrial requests were made by Lynne Stewart, the lawyer for Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, and Roger Stavis, lawyer for Al Sayid Nosair, who is accused of launching a holy war in the United States in 1990 by assassinating Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Mr. Stavis made his request after emotional testimony.

## Iran rejects permanent extension of nuclear pact

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iran's foreign minister, at centre stage of a U.N. conference on nuclear non-proliferation, denounced Washington Friday for trying to disrupt his country's nuclear programme while "turning a blind eye" to Israel's atomic weapons.

Iran will not support indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as sought by the United States, until this "ever-widening gap between promises and realities" of the treaty is closed, said Ali Akbar Velayati.

The United States, condoning Iran's plan to produce nuclear weapons, has tried to persuade Russia, China and other nations to cut off nuclear supplies to the Tehran government.

The Iranians, who are obligated as NPT signatories not to develop atomic arms, insist their plans are only for peaceful energy projects. They accuse Washington of violating a treaty provision guaranteeing open access to nuclear technology.

Listing this and other treaty "failures," Mr. Velayati said the 25-year-old pact should be extended for less than an indefinite period at this point.

"The future of the treaty should be meticulously intertwined with the periodic examination of progress" in such areas.

The United States appears, however, to be successfully building a coalition of nations to win a permanent treaty extension free of any major new demands on the nuclear powers. (see page 2)

"Certain nuclear weapon states... not only rendered, generously, materials and know-how to Israel," Mr. Velayati said. "But also

U.S.-N. Korea nuclear talks end without deal

BERLIN (Agencies) — North Korea ruled out resuming deadlocked talks with the United States on slaying a landmark nuclear accord before its negotiators head home on Friday.

In Washington, Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Thursday urged North Korea to reopen high-level negotiations with the United States on replacing a nuclear power facility. But the North Korean delegation in Berlin rejected the idea of new talks.

"It is not an insoluble problem," Mr. Christopher said in proposing the nuclear talks be shifted to Geneva from Berlin, and be held at a higher level. He would send Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci to the Swiss city if the offer was accepted.

But in Berlin, the chief North Korean negotiator in lower-level talks, Kim Jong U, said those talks had collapsed and he was returning to North Korea. "Our delegation is leaving Berlin today," he said.

The North Korean said there would be no "high-level talks" in Geneva, like the ones that started the easing of tensions last year between the two countries. "We think everything that could be discussed in high-level talks has already been discussed and settled," he said.

There was, however, no direct reaction to Mr. Christopher's offer from the North Korean capital.

"The U.S. side is to blame for the rupture, for the breakdown and the rupture of the current talks because of the unreasonable and unrealistic attitudes," Mr. Kim said.

The North Korean government will take "relevant section" according to the report he brings back home, the negotiator said without elaboration. It was not immediately clear whether he was referring to a possible resumption of North Korea's nuclear programme or to a further response to U.S. proposals.

Mr. Christopher urged the North Koreans not to reload a suspect nuclear reactor and to reopen negotiations in Geneva for replacing it. Those who prefer tea also benefit, the study said. Drinking more than two cups a day reduced the incidence of rectal cancer. "Coffee consumption appears to be protective against colon cancer and tea against rectal tumors," the report entitled "coffee, tea, tobacco and cancer of the large bowel."

Asked about proposal he did not like for a South Korean nuclear plant model to be used, Mr. Kim Jong said: "The proposal put on our table does not have the safety features that North Korea is looking for."

"We cannot reach any kind of agreement at this round of the talks, due to the unrealistic approach of the U.S. delegation."

The talks in Berlin were suspended Thursday, and North Korea had declared Friday the deadline for concluding an accord.

## Column 8

### Diana on Hong Kong fund-raiser swing

HONG KONG (AFP) — Britain's Princess Diana, the estranged wife of Prince Charles, arrived in Hong Kong Friday for a private weekend visit in support of a charity. Governor Chris Patten greeted the Princess of Wales at the British colony's airport before she headed off to her first function, a gala fund-raising dinner for a leprosy mission in China. On Saturday she will attend a cancer-society luncheon, followed Sunday by a tour of a drug rehabilitation centre and, before departure for London, an exclusive dinner with Mr. Patten and about 20 guests.

### Mother Teresa opens a floating clinic

DHAKA (AP) — Mother Teresa has launched a floating hospital on a barge which was discarded as a scrap in France. "Love each other and pray together for peace," said Mother Teresa as she declared open the 38.5 metre long and five metre wide hospital in River Sitalakha, 16 kilometres (10 miles) off Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The ship was steered from a French town by social workers under the sponsorship of the Bangladesh Rotary Club. The barge survived the buffeting waves of the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal for three and a half months to reach Bangladesh. Named Friendship Hospital, it is fitted with equipment for treatment of common diseases, said a doctor.

### Diana's brother and wife to separate — paper

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana's brother Charles Spencer is to separate from his wife Victoria, who is in a clinic battling the eating disorder bulimia, the tabloid Sun newspaper reported Friday. "Lord and Lady Spencer will live separately for the foreseeable future. They have no current plans for divorce," a spokesman for the 30-year-old Earl told the paper. It said Earl Spencer would provide a bouse on his Althorp estate for his wife and they had agreed to give each other open access to their three young daughters and baby son. Earl Spencer said earlier this month that his 29-year-old wife, a former model, was receiving treatment at an exclusive clinic.

Singapore was among them, and on Thursday Singaporean diplomat Viji Menon announced her nation's support for indefinite extension.

"The treaty could and should be strengthened," she told the conference. "We are not convinced, however, that giving it a limited lifespan is the best way to do it."

Arms control experts say the conference is leaning towards indefinite extension.

"The U.S. side is to blame for the rupture, for the breakdown and the rupture of the current talks because of the unreasonable and unrealistic attitudes," Mr. Kim said.

The North Korean government will take "relevant section" according to the report he brings back home, the negotiator said without elaboration. It was not immediately clear whether he was referring to a possible resumption of North Korea's nuclear programme or to a further response to U.S. proposals.

Mr. Christopher urged the North Koreans not to reload a suspect nuclear reactor and to reopen negotiations in Geneva for replacing it. Those who prefer tea also benefit, the study said. Drinking more than two cups a day reduced the incidence of rectal cancer. "Coffee consumption appears to be protective against colon cancer and tea against rectal tumors," the report entitled "coffee, tea, tobacco and cancer of the large bowel."

Asked about proposal he did not like for a South Korean nuclear plant model to be used, Mr. Kim Jong said: "The proposal put on our table does not have the safety features that North Korea is looking for."

"We cannot reach any kind of agreement at this round of the talks, due to the unrealistic approach of the U.S. delegation."

The talks in Berlin were suspended Thursday, and North Korea had declared Friday the deadline for concluding an accord.